Church Growth

About Us

search...

Leadership

Ministry

New Church

Directory

YOU ARE HERE: HOME | FEATURE FOCUS

Feature Focus - September 2012

J





News

Celebrate

News

Breaking News

Feature Focus

Home

Conference News

Local Church News

Lifting Up...

NEWS Archives

Resources

SECUCC eNewsletter

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Who is the SEC?

Who is the UCC?

How Do I Find a UCC Church?

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Tim Downs to Retire

Friends:

By Jim Crabb

You will read a letter in this current "Conference Connection" from Tim Downs announcing his retirement as Conference Minister effective June 30, 2013. Tim has been a good and faithful servant, a visionary leader, and the principal force in the strengthening of the Southeast Conference in so many ways. We will take time to honor Tim at a later date. At this moment, though, I want to tell you about the search and call process.

For those who have been through a search and call for a local minister in the UCC, this will seem

familiar. The Executive Committee is meeting regularly to develop a slate of candidates for a Search Committee. It is our hope that the Board of Directors will appoint the committee at the next meeting of the full board in mid-September.

Once appointed, the Search Committee will begin a process of developing a Conference Profile, which is then sent out through the various channels of the UCC. They will then review ministerial profiles from interested candidates, routed through and vetted by the Office of General Ministries. They will then select candidates for interview by phone and in person, finally selecting an individual to present for Conference approval. Although we would like to have a candidate by the next Annual Meeting, it seems likely that this process will take somewhat longer than that.

We are being assisted by Susan Towner-Larsen, who assists the General Minister and President with Conference Relations in the Office of General Ministries. Susan is clear that this is a search for a leader of the national UCC, as well as of our conference. Susan also reminds your somewhat business-minded Moderator that this is a ministerial search, which is different from a CEO search in some key ways, and therefore takes a different tack.

Another part of this process is the development of a position description. While we have a good working document, the Board would appreciate any input you may offer about what skills and qualities are important in our next Conference Minister. I will use this channel to keep you informed as the process moves forward. Please



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Headlines from the United Church of Christ

Ohio UCC congregation kicks off centennial celebration with \$10K collection

To kick off the celebration of its centennial anniversary, the congregation of East View UCC in Shaker Heights, Ohio, set an ambitious goal, pledging to collect \$10,000 in the offering on Sunday. Together, members met that pledge, starting a fund for improving the building they've called home.



don't nesitate to let me know your thoughts. In ne best avenue for that is email: ${\tt getcrabby@gmail.comgetcrabby@gmail.com}\;.$

Jim Crabb Moderator Southeast Conference UCC

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